Dear Friends,

I remember vividly my graduate school professor standing on top of a desk in front of the class and saying, “In two minutes I am going to fall backwards off of this desk and you are going to catch me. Whatever you do, don’t let me fall.” To our amazement, she fell backwards in exactly two minutes. To her amazement, we caught her. “Teaching for transformation,” she continued, “involves vulnerability and trust on behalf of both students and teachers. Let’s talk about that…”

The next three hours followed with an incredibly rich and robust conversation about the importance of excellence in the classroom that requires more than information, but a commitment to the learning process and the learning community. It is hard to remember a more formative day in the classroom, and the impact of that day has been immeasurable for each one of us.

What are your most vivid classroom memories? What lecture radically shaped your point of view? What instructor is indelibly marked in your memory for their impact on your life and career? What “disorienting dilemma” opened you up to a new way of thinking or being in the world? I am certain, given time to think about such things, you would have a few things that immediately jump out to you.

PSRC is committed to offering dynamic lifelong learning opportunities in a variety of settings with a wonderful team of instructors and a vibrant learning community. Whether in our Evergreen Forum, celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year, or in one of our art or enrichment classes, you will be challenged, enlightened, and indeed, transformed. After all, the teleological dimension of adult learning should not be limited to knowledge for knowledge’s sake, but also for personal growth, community development, and societal change.

I want to personally invite you to consider three things this month that will give you a sense of how PSRC values lifelong learning:

1) Come tour our new location — The Nancy S. Klath Center for Lifelong Learning at 101 Poor Farm Road in Princeton. Sign up for one of our remaining community open houses by registering at https://princetonsenior.link/CommunityOpenHouses, sign up for one of our in-person or hybrid classes, or drop by during the day (Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) to visit the facility and tour the learning center.

2) Participate in my inaugural hybrid lecture, “Everything You Learned about Learning is Wrong” on Monday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. You can register here: https://princetonsenior.link/Learn-Learning to attend either in person at The Klath Center or via Zoom.

3) View this video — https://princetonsenior.link/VolunteerTribute2021 — highlighting the volunteers who make the Evergreen Forum possible and celebrating twenty years of Evergreen!

I look forward to seeing you this month. Happy Holidays!

All the Best,

Drew A. Dyson, PhD
Chief Executive Officer